

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application and stand rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has deleted paragraph [0001] of the specification. The application is *not* a continuation-in-part of a previous application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 12, 13, 15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wiedeman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,996). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite a method for providing data content to “a plurality of platforms traveling in a plurality of satellite coverage regions, ... said method comprising...: within each of the coverage regions, multicasting data content selected for the region to all of the platforms in the region via an associated ground station and satellite to make all of the selected data content available to each of the platforms in the region; ...”

Wiedeman et al. describe a system providing multi-gateway diversity to a mobile user terminal (“UT”) 3 moving from one gateway (GW) coverage area (CA) to another CA (FIG. 1-3). The system of Wiedeman et al. is not disclosed as employing multicasting. Wiedeman et al. do not disclose making all data content selected for a

gateway (GW) coverage area (CA) available to each of a plurality of UTs in the coverage area. To the contrary, each UT 3 receives signals which appear to be uniquely identified with that UT (col. 5, line 40- col. 6, line 46). The system of Wiedeman et al. does not anticipate the recitations of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 should be allowed. Applicant also submits that when the recitations of claims 2-11 (dependent on claim 1) are considered together with the recitations of claim 1, claims 2-11 also should be allowed.

Independent claim 12 is amended to recite "...for each of the coverage regions, an associated ground station and satellite configured to multicast data content formatted for reception by all of the platforms in the coverage region;..."

In the system of Wiedeman et al., a gateway (GW) uses Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) signals to transmit data to a UT 3 (FIG. 4; col. 8, line 57- col. 9, line 33). Each UT apparently receives signals unique to the UT (col. 2, lines 8-31; col. 5, line 40-col. 6, line 46). A UT 3 of Wiedeman et al. is not disclosed as receiving multicast data content from a gateway (GW) that is formatted for reception by other UTs.

The system of Wiedeman et al. does not anticipate the recitations of amended claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 12 should be allowed. Applicant also submits that when the recitations of claims 13-17 (dependent on claim 12) are considered together with the recitations of claim 12, claims 13-17 also should be allowed.

Independent claim 18 is amended to recite a method for providing data content to "a user on a given platform traveling in a plurality of satellite coverage regions". The

method includes "...selecting data content for each of the coverage regions; for each of the coverage regions, formatting the selected data content for reception in its entirety by a plurality of platforms in the coverage region; within each of the coverage regions, multicasting...the formatted data content to platforms in the coverage region;..."

Weideman et al. do not describe selecting data content for each of the GW coverage areas. To the contrary, as a UT 3 moves from one GW coverage area (CA) to another CA, call speech or data information is conveyed between gateways (GWs) so that a call is not dropped (abstract). Further, Weideman et al. do not teach formatting data content for reception in its entirety by a plurality of UTs.

The system of Wiedeman et al. does not anticipate the recitations of amended claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 18 should be allowed. Applicant also submits that when the recitations of claims 19-20 (dependent on claim 18) are considered together with the recitations of claim 18, claims 19-20 also should be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,760,778) in view of Wiedeman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,996). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nelson et al. describe an apparatus which utilizes the North American Terrestrial System (NATS) Network to support data traffic to or from an aircraft (col. 3, lines 30-35). It is admitted in the Office Action that Nelson does not clearly disclose providing data

content to a plurality of platforms traveling in a plurality of satellite coverage regions configured for bi-directional communication with a ground segment via satellite link.

Neither Nelson et al. nor Wiedeman et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest "...within each of the coverage regions, multicasting data content selected for the region to all of the platforms in the region... to make all of the selected data content available to each of the platforms in the region..." as recited in amended claim 1.

Additionally, claims 5 and 6 (dependent on claim 1) are amended for clarity. Amended claim 5 recites "...configuring the mobile communications system on the entering platform to drop packets of the multicast data content not relating to platforms provided by the provider of the entering platform." Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2-11 dependent on claim 1 should be allowed.

Neither Nelson et al. nor Wiedeman et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest "...for each of the coverage regions, an associated ground station and satellite configured to multicast data content formatted for reception by all of the platforms in the coverage region;..." as recited in amended claim 12. Applicant accordingly submits that claim 12 and claims 13-17 dependent on claim 12 should be allowed.

Neither Nelson et al. nor Wiedeman et al., alone or in combination, teach or suggest "...selecting data content for each of the coverage regions; for each of the coverage regions, formatting the selected data content for reception in its entirety by a plurality of platforms in the coverage region; within each of the coverage regions, multicasting...the formatted data content to platforms in the coverage region;..." as recited in amended claim 18.

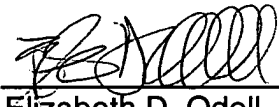
Additionally, claim 19 is amended to recite that "... formatting the selected data content comprises providing an indication as to whether a packet of the content is to be delivered to the user." Applicant submits that claim 18 and claims 19-20 dependent on claim 18 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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